

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated August 9, 2005, the phone interview conducted on December 9, 2005, and the Advisory Action dated December 28, 2005.

Applicants thank the Examiner for taking the time to conduct the phone interview, and hereby acknowledge the receipt of the Interview Summary dated December 13, 2005.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-17 are under consideration in this application. Claims 1-2, 11-12 and 16-17 are being amended, as set forth in the above marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to more particularly define and distinctly claim applicants' invention.

All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Statement of Substance of Interview

Applicants contended that Sarrasin's microtip 16 is structurally different from the invention, as in the recitation of "a part of each of the first electrodes ..." in the proposed claim 1. Considering the Examiner's comments about claim 3 on page 5, last paragraph of the outstanding Office Action, Applicants also proposed adding claim 3 into claim 1. The Examiner indicated that the proposed amendments overcome the prior art of records but raised new issues. The amendments and arguments in this response address the points made by the Examiner.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) on the grounds of being anticipated by US Pat. No. 5,600,343 to Sarrasin (hereinafter "Sarrasin"), and claims 3 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarrasin. These rejections have been carefully considered, but are most respectfully traversed.

The image display of the invention (for example the embodiment depicted in Figs. 6-10), as now recited in claim 1, comprises: a display device including, a first plate 14 (Fig. 8) having: a plurality of electron-emitter elements 301 (Fig. 10) each having a structure comprised of a base electrode 13, an insulating layer 12 and a top electrode 11 stacked on one another in this order, said electron-emitter element 301 emitting electrons from the surface of the top electrode 11 (as shown in Fig. 8) when a voltage of positive polarity is applied to the top electrode 11; a plurality of first electrodes 310 (Fig. 10) extending in a row (or column) direction for respectively applying driving voltages to the base electrodes 13 of the electron-emitter elements 301 lying in the row (or column) direction, of said plurality of electron-emitter elements 301, a part of each of the first electrodes 310 forming said base electrode 13; and a plurality of second electrodes 311 (also the to electrode busline 32; Fig. 10) extending in a column (or row) direction for respectively applying driving voltages to the top electrodes 11 of the electron-emitter elements 301 lying in the column (or row) direction, of said plurality of electron-emitter elements 301; a frame component; a second plate 110 (Fig. 8) having phosphors 114; wherein a space surrounded by said first plate 14, said frame component and said second plate 110 is brought into vacuum; first driving means 41 (Fig. 10) for supplying driving voltages to said respective first electrodes 310; and second driving means 42 (Fig. 10) for supplying driving voltages to said respective second electrodes 311. The first driving means 41 sets the first electrode 310 held in a non-selected state to a state of having an impedance higher than that of the first electrode 310 held in a selected state.

Claim 2 recites all the elements in claim 1, and further recites “wherein said second driving means 42 sets the second electrode 311 held in a non-selected state to a state of having an impedance higher than that of the second electrode 311 held in a selected state”.

The invention is directed to a driving method of an image display comprising: providing the image display recited in claim 1 or claim 2, setting the first electrode held in a non-selected state to a state of having an impedance higher than that of the first electrode held in a selected state (claims 11-12), and setting the second electrode held in a non-selected state to a state of having an impedance higher than that of the second electrode held in a selected state (claim 12).

The invention recited in claims 16-17 is also directed to an image display comprising the image display recited in claim 1 or claim 2, but instead of “electron-emitter elements each having a structure comprised of a base electrode, an insulating layer and a top electrode stacked on one another in this order” incorporating “thin-film electron emitters each having a base electrode and a top electrode” are recited.

Applicants contend that none of the cited prior art references teaches or suggests such “a plurality of electron-emitter elements 301 each having a structure comprised of a base electrode 13, (an insulating layer 12) and a top electrode 11 stacked on one another in this order, said electron-emitter element 301 emitting electrons from the surface of the *top electrode* 11 (as shown in Fig. 8) when a voltage of positive polarity is applied to the top electrode 11 according to the invention.

In contrast, Sarrasin’s row electrode 10 and column electrode 8 merely correspond to the first electrode 310 and the second electrode 311 of the invention, rather than to the base electrode 13 and the top electrode 11 of the invention, which are part of electron-emitter elements 301. See attached Explanatory Table.

Sarrasin’s microtip 16 was relied upon by the Examiner to teach the electron-emitter elements 301 of the invention. However, Sarrasin’s microtip 16 does not have a base electrode 13 which forms a part of the first/row electrode 310 (Fig. 8) as the electron-emitter elements 301 of the invention.

Applicants contend that Sarrasin fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of the present invention as disclosed in the independent claims 1-2, 11-12 and 16-17. As such, the present invention as now claimed is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the rejections raised in the Office Action. The withdrawal of the outstanding prior art rejections is in order, and is respectfully solicited.

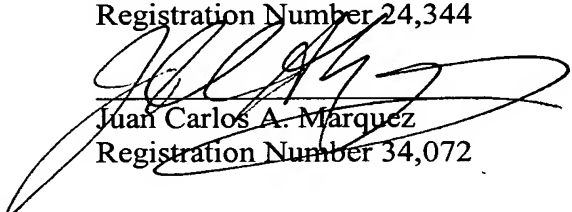
Conclusion

In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicants respectfully contend that the prior art references cannot anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

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January 9, 2006

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